

Message Text

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42

ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-05

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8482

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TAGS: ENRG, EAGR, EIND, PK

SUBJECT: WATER AND POWER PROSPECTS FOR THE SIND

REF: A) ISLAMABAD 10355 B) LAHORE 1458 C) LAHORE 1442
D) LAHORE 1349

1. ON NOV 13 CG AND DPO CALLED ON B. ZAHIDI, ADD. CHIEF SECY (DEVELOPMENT) GOS, TO OBTAIN OVERALL PICTURE THIS EXPERT SOURCE ON WATER SHORTAGE IN RIVERINE IRRIGATED AGRICULTURAL AREAS OF SIND. ZAHIDI OPINED WATER SHORTAGE WILL BE MORE SERIOUS HERE THAN IN PUNJAB SINCE DOWNSTREAM USERS ONLY GOT WHAT WAS LEFT AFTER USE UPSTREAM. HE ESTIMATED CROPS GENERALLY WOULD BE REDUCED BY 20-25 PERCENT DURING COMING MONTHS, UNTIL NEW WATER FROM MELTING SNOWS AGAIN AVAILABLE IN APRIL. ZAHIDI BELIEVED SHORTAGE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY ACUTE IN LOWER SIND IN SUGAR CANE AND RICE AREAS OF THATTA AND DADU DISTRICTS, BUT THAT RICE, COTTON, AND SUGAR CANE CROPS THROUGHOUT PROVINCE WILL BE HURT. WATER SHORTAGE ALREADY AFFECTING PRESENT COTTON AND RICE CROPS AND WILL FURTHER
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AFFECT NEW WINTER CROPS (WHEAT NOW BEING PLANTED AND SUGAR AND

RICE TO BE PLANTED IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH RESPECTIVELY).

2. ZAHIDI THOUGHT RIGHT RESPONSE TO WATER SHORTAGE MIGHT HAVE BEEN TO REDUCE ACREAGE IN PROPORTION TO DIMINISHED WATER SUPPLY (ALTHOUGH OTHER PROVINCIAL AG AUTHORITIES STRESS MEETING PRESCRIBED SOWING TARGETS AND MAINTAINING CROP GROWTH THROUGH JUDICIOUS MANAGEMENT OF SCARCE WATER DURING COMING RABI SEASON.) FARMERS, ZAHIDI SAID, HAD ALREADY PREPARED SOME 10 PERCENT MORE LAND THIS YEAR IN ANTICIPATION INCREASED WATER SUPPLY FROM TARBELA DAM, WHICH NOW, OF COURSE, UNAVAILABLE. ONE POSSIBLE COUNTER ACTION WHICH COULD BE TAKEN, ZAHIDI BELIEVES, IS TO LAUNCH MASSIVE TUBE WELL ACTIVATION PROGRAM. GOS SUBSIDIZING NEW TUBE WELLS AT RATE OF RS. 6,000 EACH, WITH AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BANK LENDING THE REST, UP TO TOTAL COST OF ABOUT RS. 24,000 PER TUBE WELL, BUT HE ADMITTED LITTLE TIME OR CHANCE FOR PROGRAM TO BE VERY EFFECTIVE. POWER SHORTAGE ALSO INHIBITS USE ELECTRIC TUBE WELL PUMPS AND NECESSITATES USE MORE EXPENSIVE DIESEL UNITS.

3. WHEN WE ASKED ZAHIDI WHY ENGLISH PRESS GIVING LITTLE PLAY TO WATER SITUATION, HE REPLIED THAT SINDHI PRESS, WHICH READ BY FARMERS, INDEED COVERING SUBJECT (OUR VERNACULAR PRESS REVIEWERS CONFIRM VERACITY ZAHIDI'S STATEMENT). FARMERS NOW DO SEEM GENERALLY AWARE OF UPCOMING SHORTAGE AS INDICATED DURING CONSUL GENERAL'S RECENT TOUR OF HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

4. GOS ADD. SECY FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER ABBASI IN LATER MEETING TOLD US 560 PUBLIC SECTOR TUBE WELLS DRILLED THREE YEARS AGO IN NAWABSHAH DISTRICT OF SIND AND COUPLE HUNDRED PRIVATELY DRILLED WATER WELLS HAVE NEVER BEEN ACTIVATED OWING ABSENCE POWER DISTRIBUTION LINES. WAPDA NOW BEING URGED DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS. ABBASI ALSO SAID INDUS FLOW THROUGH SIND THIS YEAR HAS BEEN LOWEST EVER RECORDED. AT SUKKUR BARAGE PRESENT FLOW IS 30,000 CUSECS WHILE DEMAND AT 40,000 CUSECS. DOWNSTREAM AT KOTRI FLOW ONLY 2,000 CUSECS WHILE NEED IS 4,000 CUSECS. ABBASI AGREES WITH RECENT PRESS OBSERVATIONS THAT LARGER INPUT PESTICIDES FOR PLANT PROTECTION MIGHT HELP COUNTER REDUCED CROP LEVELS FROM LACK OF WATER, PARTICULARLY SINCE ACREAGE YIELDS IN PAKISTAN SO LOW ANYWAY IN RELATION TO WORLD AVERAGES.

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5. BRIG AZIZ, CHAIRMAN KARACHI ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO., CONFIRMS THAT POWER SUPPLY IN SIND WHICH SUFFERS FROM INADEQUATE DISTRIBUTION GRID AND FROM REPEATED BREAKDOWNS OF KARACHI NUCLEAR POWER STATION WILL NOT BE FURTHER AFFECTED BY WATER SHORTAGE AS IN PUNJAB SINCE ALL GENERATORS IN SIND ARE THERMAL OR NUCLEAR. BRIG AZIZ CONFIRMS OTHER REPORTS THAT THERE WILL BE UP TO 250 MEGAWATT DECREASE IN HYDRO POWER GENERATION IN PUNJAB AND FRONTIER OWING TO LOW RESERVOIR LEVELS. SINCE MAXIMUM DEMAND IN AREA SERVED BY

NORTHERN GRID NOW A LITTLE OVER 1,000 MW, AZIZ SAYS AREA SERVED BY WAPDA WILL BE UP TO 25 PERCENT SHORT OF POWER NORMALLY REQUIRED. WE NOTE KARACHI BUSINESS RECORDER OF NOV 13 GAVE FRONT PAGE LEAD COVERAGE TO POWER SHORTAGE AND GOP DIRECTIONS TO WAPDA TO LAUNCH POWER ECONOMY DRIVE AND EXPLORE ALL POSSIBLY SURPLUS SOURCES OF POWER FROM INDUSTRIAL PLANTS AND STANDBY GENERATORS. AFTERNOON PRESS OF NOV 14 ALSO REPORTS ENERGY CRISIS WILL BE MAIN SUBJECT DISCUSSED BY GOVERNORS AND CHIEF MINISTERS AT INTER-PROVINCIAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING WHICH BEGAN IN KARACHI TODAY.

6. AS CONGEN OFFS SPEAK WITH OTHER AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS, INCLUDING P. K. SHAHANI, NEW AGRICULTURAL SPECIAL ADVISOR TO CHIEF MINISTER JATOI, WE SHALL REPORT FURTHER DETAILS ON WATER SHORTAGE SITUATION.
TIGER

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